

24111

24

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 969

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

PER #

TOTAL COPIES:

51

REPRO BY

FILE RF.

OC/WE-5, OC/SOV-3, OC/CHD-5

EUR-3, CA-3, CI, MPS/PSG, DD, OC, SB, FE-2, CI

ONE, OER-2, CR/E, INDICO, OSR/RA-4, DDST-2, OBG-2

CONFIDENTIAL

HCF433

STAT

OSI-3, OSID, OSR/PA, OSINED, OSRBF, OSERF,  
PAGE 01 STATE 025821

88

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-12 ARA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
EA-10 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-04 NEA-13  
NSAE-00 NSC-10 OST-01 P-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCI-05 SS-20  
USIA-12 / 190 R

66636

DRAFTED BY: OSD/ISA: CAPT WELCH

APPROVED BY: EUR: GEORGE S SPRINGSTEEN

OSD/LA: COL BROWER

OSD/ISA: MR MORSE

EUR/RPM: MR GOODBY

EUR/RPM: MR MCGUIRE

OCJCS/J-5: BG GEN ELDER (INFORMED)

OSD/PA: MR FRIEDHEIM

PM: MR SPIERS

----- 012594

P R 200045Z FEB 70  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025821

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJ: DECDEF POSTURE STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARD

1. FOLLOWING IS ABRIDGED TEXT OF SAFEGUARD PORTION OF SECDEF POSTURE STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE RELEASED ON FRIDAY 20 FEB WHEN SECRETARY LAIRD APPEARS BEFORE JOINT SESSION OF SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. NO RELEASE OR DISCUSSION PERMITTED BEFORE 0900 WASHINGTON TIME ON FRIDAY 20 FEB. AT THAT TIME YOU MAY PASS THIS INFORMATION TO SYG BROSIO AND OTHER DELEGATIONS ON UNCLAS BASIS. COMPLETE POSTURE STATEMENT WILL BE POUCED TO YOU WHEN AVAILABLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 9/69

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

PER #

TOTAL COPIES:

REPRO BY

FILE RF.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 025821

2. BEGIN ABRIDGED TEXT:

A. THE EVIDENT AND CONTINUING THREATS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNIST CHINA FORCE UPON US NECESSITY OF CONTINUING PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARD ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM IN FY 1971. WE HOPE SALT WILL LEAD TO A REDUCED SOVIET THREAT BUT, MEANWHILE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ALL AVAILABLE STRATEGIC FORCE OPTIONS IN THIS TRANSITIONAL BUDGET YEAR. WITHOUT SAFEGUARD INCREMENT PROVIDED BY THIS BUDGET, WE WOULD BE FACED NOW WITH THE HARD DECISIONS ABOUT ADDING IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS RATHER THAN BEING ABLE TO AWAIT HOPED-FOR PROGRESS IN SALT.

B. DECISION OF ADMINISTRATION TO REQUEST CONTINUATION OF ORDERLY, PHASED, SAFEGUARD PROGRAM FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE -- GOING BEYOND THE CONGRESSIONALLY-APPROVED PHASE I -- WAS BASED ON:

A. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES OF SAFEGUARD DEFENSE, AND OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE PRESIDENT'S FLEXIBILITY ON FUTURE OPTIONS TO EITHER CURTAIL OR EXPAND THE SYSTEM;

B. THE CONTINUED CHINESE PROGRESS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

C. THE EVOLVING AND INCREASING SOVIET OFFENSIVE WEAPON THREAT;

D. OUR DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN POSSIBILITIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT;

E. THE OPTIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, CONSIDERING TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND BUDGETARY FACTORS.

F. THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION;

G. OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE EMPHASIS ON STRATEGIC DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS RATHER THAN BEING FORCED TO DEPLOY ADDITIONAL OFFENSIVE WEAPONS OR TO BE FORCED TO MOVE FORWARD NOW, WITH MAKING A PORTION OF OUR MINUTEMAN FORCE MOBILE.

CONFIDENTIAL

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 9/69

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

PER #

TOTAL COPIES:

REPRO BY

FILE RF.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 025821

C. AS THE PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED, RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON A SINGLE PURPOSE, SAFEGUARD HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE SEVERAL OBJECTIVES AGAINST A COMBINATION OF SOVIET AND CHINESE THREATS.

D. COMMUNIST CHINA HAS CONTINUED TO TEST NUCLEAR WEAPONS SUITABLE FOR MISSILES. ESTIMATES OF THE DATE BY WHICH THEY MIGHT HAVE AN INITIAL ICBM CAPABILITY VARY FROM 1973 TO THE MID-1970'S. IN EITHER CASE, WE MUST PROCEED WITH THE AREA COVERAGE OF SAFEGUARD IF WE ARE TO PROTECT OUR POPULATION FROM THIS THREAT IN THE LATE 1970'S.

E. WE KNOW THAT THE CHINESE HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF TESTING AN ICBM IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND THAT THEY ARE LIKELY TO HAVE AN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. A MEASURED AND ORDERLY DEPLOYMENT OF SAFEGUARD, TAKING ONLY THE MINIMUM STEPS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE OUR ABILITY TO MEET THE THREAT AS IT EVOLVES, IS BOTH THE MOST PRUDENT AND MOST ECONOMICAL COURSE WE CAN PURSUE.

F. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GROWTH OF SOVIET FORCES COULD PRESENT A SEVERE THREAT TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE MINUTEMAN AND BOMBER FORCES BY THE MID-70S. WE ARE NOW FACED WITH THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES CONCERNING MINUTEMAN:

A. THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT INCREASE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-9 AND THE SS-11, DO NOT DEVELOP A MIRV FOR THE SS-9, AND DO NOT IMPROVE ICBM ACCURACY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE IS NO NEED FOR A DEFENSE OF THE MINUTEMAN FORCE;

B. THAT THE SOVIETS STOP BUILDING ICBMS BEYOND THOSE NOW OPERATIONAL OR STARTED; THEY DO NOT DEVELOP A MIRV FOR THE SS-9; BUT THEY DO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THEIR ENTIRE ICBM FORCE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FORCE COULD CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE MINUTEMAN FORCE AND SAFEGUARD WOULD BE QUITE EFFECTIVE AGAINST THAT THREAT;

C. THAT THE SOVIETS DEPLOY A MIRV ON THE SS-9, IMPROVE THEIR ICBM ACCURACY, AND DO NOT STOP BUILDING ICBMS AT THIS TIME, BUT CONTINUE BUILDING THEM AT THEIR PRESENT RATE. WE WOULD THEN BE FACED IN THE MID-70S WITH A THREAT WHICH IS MUCH TOO LARGE TO BE HANDLED BY THE LEVEL OF DEFENSE ENVISIONED IN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

PER #

TOTAL COPIES:

REPRO BY

FILE RF.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 025821  
 SAFEGUARD SYSTEM WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT AND  
 MODIFICATION.

G. THE ABOVE FACTORS PRSENTED US WITH A MOST DIFFICULT  
 DECISION INVOLVING THREE BASIC CHOICES:

A. SHOULD WE REACT TO THE THREATS WHICH ARE POSSIBLE  
 FOR THE MID-70S AND PAY, BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY, THE COST  
 OF THIS CONCERN?

B. SHOULD WE HOPE THAT THE THREAT IS ONLY MODEST  
 AND STAY WITH THE PRESENT SAFEGUARD DEPLOYMENT?

C. SHOULD WE ASSUME THERE WILL BE NO SERIOUS THREAT  
 AND DO NOTHING?

H. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE THREAT COULD ACTUALLY TURN  
 OUT TO BE CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THE SAFEGUARD DEFENSE IS  
 DESIGNED TO HANDLE. THAT IS ONE REASON WE HAVE DECIDED TO  
 PURSUE SEVERAL COURSES WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO LESS EXPENSIVE  
 OPTIONS FOR THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM THAN EXPANDING  
 SAFEGUARD TO MEET THE HIGHEST THREAT LEVEL. WE HAVE FURTHER  
 DECIDED TO CONTINUE DEPLOYMENT OF SAFEGUARD BECAUSE THE  
 ADDITIONAL COST NEEDED TO DEFEND A PORTION OF MINUTEMAN IS  
 SMALL IF THE FULL AREA DEFENSE IS BROUGHT. SAFEGUARD CAN  
 ALSO SERVE AS A CORE FOR GROWTH OPTIONS IN DEFENSE OF  
 MINUTEMAN, IF REQUIRED.

I. IF, IN THE FUTURE, THE DEFENSE OF MINUTEMAN HAS TO BE  
 EXPANDED, NEW AND SMALLER ADDITIONAL RADARS PLACED IN MINUTEMAN  
 FIELDS WOULD BE LESS COSTLY THAN THE SAFEGUARD MISSILE SITE  
 RADAR (MSR) BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO COVER SUCH LARGE  
 AREAS. FOR THIS REASON, WE WILL PURSUE A PROGRAM TO DETERMINE  
 THE OPTIMUM RADAR FOR SUCH A DEFENSE AND BEGIN THE DEVELOPMENT  
 OF THIS RADAR AND ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS IN FY 1971. AT THE  
 SAME TIME, THE AIR FORCE WILL PURSUE SEVERAL OTHER OPTIONS  
 FOR SOLVING THE SURVIVABILITY PROBLEM OF THE LAND-BASED  
 MISSILE SYSTEMS.

J. THERE ARE, THEN, SEVERAL OPTIONS. THE SAFEGUARD  
 DEFENSE WILL SERVE AS A NUCLEUS. WE CAN ADD A HARPOINT DEFENSE  
 SYSTEM IF NECESSARY OR WE MAY LATER CHOOSE TO BASE PART OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

PER #

TOTAL COPIES:

REPRO BY

FILE RF.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 025821

FORCE IN A DIFFERENT BASING CONCEPT THAN THE PRESENT FORCE. PROCEEDING WITH FURTHER DEPLOYMENT OF SAFEGUARD IN FY 1971 POSTPONES THE NECESSITY OF COMMITTING OURSELVES NOW EITHER TO A MOBILE MINUTEMAN (ON LAND OR AFLOAT) OR TO FURTHER HARDENING OF MINUTEMAN SILOS. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE SOVIET THREAT CONTINUE TO GROW BEYOND LEVELS THAT CAN BE REASONABLY HANDLED BY ACTIVE DEFENSE, I CAN ASSURE THIS COMMITTEE THAT I WILL NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND AT ANY TIME ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF ULMS SHOULD THE NATURE OF THE THREAT WARRANT IT IN THE FUTURE.

K. IN SUMMARY, OUR DECISION NOW TO PROCEED WITH FURTHER DEPLOYMENT OF SAFEGUARD GIVES US ANOTHER YEAR IN WHICH TO PURSUE SALT WITHOUT OURSELVES EXACERBATING THE ARMS CONTROL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ACTIONS ON OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS. WE CAN DO THIS WHILE STILL PROVIDING A HEDGE AGAINST MODERATE THREATS AND AN OPTION TO MEET, IF NECESSARY, A HEAVIER THREAT.

L. ALSO, THE PRODUCTION OF SOVIET NUCLEAR-POWERED BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES IS CONTINUING AT TWO SHIPYARDS. BY THE MID-1970S THE SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY HAVE A SUBMARINE FORCE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING MOST OF OUR ALERT BOMBER AND TANKER FORCE BEFORE IT CAN FLY TO SAFETY. THIS SAME SUBMARINE FORCE THREATENS OUR NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITIES. WE NEED THE SAFEGUARD AREA DEFENSE TO BLUNT THE FIRST FEW MINUTES OF SUCH AN ATTACK SO THAT OUR BOMBERS CAN ESCAPE AND OUR COMMAND SYSTEM CAN EXECUTE ITS PRIME FUNCTION.

OTHERWISE, WE MUST TURN TO EXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS REBASING OR CONTINUOUS AIRBORNE ALERT.

M. NATURALLY, THE RECOMMENDATION WE ARE MAKING FOR THE CONTINUED BUT CAREFULLY LIMITED DEPLOYMENT OF SAFEGUARD DEFENSES IS IN FULLrecognition that STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS WILL RESUME IN APRIL FOR THE DISCUSSION OF MANY COMPLEX ISSUES. AMONG THE FACTORS THAT HAVE LED US TO RECOMMEND THIS MEASURED AND MODIFIED CONTINUATION ARE BOTH THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE SOVIET STRATEGIC THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE FACT THAT MANY POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION COULD INCLUDE SOME FORM OF MISSILE DEFENSE -- WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES

CONFIDENTIAL